

[Roy A. Morse]

Dup [S.241-Daws 5?]

NAME OF WORKER [Warnock?] R. Stewart ADDRESS SUMNER

DATE October 19, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Roy A Morse, Sumner, Nebr.

2. Date and time of interview Oct. 19-20, 1938

3. Place of interview At his home 1 mile west and 1 mile south of Sumner

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant None

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. House and other buildings stand on side of hill facing south a one story frame building, very badly in need of paint. In the kitchen and dining room combined they have a [Sentinel Enamel?] range kitchen cabinet, cupboard, work table, sink, table, and chairs, a radio with ear phones for speaker electric lights furnished from a Delco plant in the [cave?]. The farm belongs to a doctors [?] widow is the reason for modern improvements. C. — [18:?] Nebr.

NAME OF WORKER [Warnock?] R. Stewart ADDRESS Sumner, Nebraska

DATE October 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Roy A. Morse, Sumner, Nebraska

1. Ancestry American

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2. Place and date of birth ——

3. Family Wife

4. Place lived in, with dates Eddyville, Nebr. and on farms near Eddyville and Sumner.

5. Education, with dates Common grade and 2 years in High School

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Clerk in Drug [?] store , Dept. Store, Post Office, and farming.

7. Special skills and interests

8. Community and religious activities Wife Catholic, He a protestant

9. Description of informant About 5 ft. 11" tall, walks with a limp, slender build, 59 yrs. old, [?] *1 white as snow [hair,*1] bald on top.

10. Other points gained in interview Experience as a kid in early days in Dawson [?] County .

NAME OF WORKER [Warnock?] R. Stewart ADDRESS Sumner

DATE Oct. 20, 1930 SUBJECT Superstitions and sayings of Oldtimers

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Roy A. Morse, Sumner, Nebr.

SIGNS OF WEATHER CHANGES

Ducks and geese flying south cold wave or storm, flying north warmer and fair weather.

Sea Gulls following plow, sign of rain. Fly's biting humans, sign of rain. Corn shucks heavy and fiting close to ear, sign of cold severe winter shucks loose and thin on ear, mild and

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open winter. Calves, colts, and hogs playful and running in [?] corrals , sign of storm and colder weather. 1 sun dog on north side of sun colder weather. 1 sundog on south side of sun, warmer and dry weather. Sundog on each side of sun, night of morning sign of storm

SUPERSTITIONS AND SAYINGS OF OLD TIMERS

Potatoes and all root vegetables should be planted in the dark of the moon in order for them to mature and do well if planted in the light of the moon they will not root down and will dry out. Tomatoes, peas, beans and all vegetables grown on top of the ground should b planted in the light of the moon to grow good healthy vines and [?] bear lots of fruit. Meat killed in the dark of the moon shrivels and all lard or grease frys out and doesn't have the food value when cooked as that killed in the light of the moon. The best time to kill beef or pork is a day or two before full moon."

Always plow sod for sod house in the dark of the moon and the grass on sod will dry up and sod will settle tight together, where if plowed in the light of the moon grass will keep alive and the dirt will not settle around the grass without leaving cracks and air holes.

Shingles laid in the dark of the moon will always lay flat and those laid in the light of the moon will curl and some times leak.

"Black cat cross road or path ahead of you at night sign or bad luck or some accident going to happen to you."

"Rabbits foot in left hip pocket good luck sign."

"[Buckeye?] carried in right front pants pocket to ward off rheumatism."

"Carry a small potato in pocket until all dried up, [?] cure for rheumatism."

"Refelection of a corpse in a mirror sign of another death in the family within a year."

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“Rain in an open grave sign of another death within a year.”

“If vehickle vehicle carrying the body is forced to stop between church and cemetery, sign of another death in the same family soon.”

MY FIRST AUTOMOBILE

I went to town one Saturday and automobiles were a courisity in those days so one of the first things I heard when I arrived, was that my neighbor had bought a new automobile, so I goes to the garage and sure enough there was Andy— my nearest neighbor in a new car, so I determined not to be outdone by my neighbors and especially Andy, I goes over to another garage to buy a car and as Andy had gotten a Ford I wanted some other kind, so he sold me a car and we got on the train to go get the car. We arrived in Kearney and had a few hours to wait before going to Omaha so decided to look around a little, mabe we could get a car like I wanted there and save the time going into Omaha for it. We went to the dealer who had the agency for the [car?] I had planned to buy and of course he didn't have one in stock but he had a second hand car that I could buy for less money and it looked all right so I bought it and we drove it home. I arrived home about 9:30 p.m. a proud owner of a new car.

In a few days I could not stand the pressure any longer, so had to take the [car?] to North Platte to show my brother-in-law. I tried to get my wife to go along, but she was too smart for me and stayed home, so I went to [?] town and got the man who sold me the car to go with me. When we started it was in the spring of the year and the roads on the Platte Valley were none too good then, but we got there about dark that night. ([11hrs.?] 80 miles) We stayed the next day and got up early the next morning and started home. We had hardly gotten started when it began to rain. We worked and drove all day without dinner or [supper?] and we run out of gas near Brady and stopped at a farm house and stayed all night. Next morning we persuaded the farmer to take his team and take us to town for gasolene and we started again and when night overtook us [?] we were five miles

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west of Lexington and the car would not run so we walked to Lexington and he got on the train and went home and I stayed all night and hired a guy to go out and /# pull me into the garage. He proceeded to try and find what the trouble was, well I don't think now as I look back that the mechanic knew any more about a car than I did, but he was three days finding the trouble and when he found it he had to order the parts from the [factory?] and that would take five or six days to get the parts and about two days to put repair parts in car, so so that meant a week before I could get the [car?] to go home, so I rode the train home and in about ten days my wife drove the team and wagon and took me to Lexington and after the car. They had the job done with a bill of [\$57.00?] against me when we arrived, so I paid for the repairs and started out for home everything went fine until I got within about a mile from home, and it quit again just like it done before so I had to wait until my wife came alone with a team and wagon to take me home.

Within a few weeks I had the car taken apart and hired a mechanic from my dealers garage in town to get needed parts and help me put it together again that time it only cost me \$27. I drove the car a few days after that over to see my neighbor Andy, and it broke down again in the same manner, he looked at the car and I told him how it had done the same thing twice before and what it had cost me and you should of seen him laugh. He says "Get into my car with [me?], we are going to town. He went into the garage and bought a little gaget for 45¢, took it home and put it on the magneto and I never had a minutes trouble with that car after that and I still believe that all the other expense I put on that car was unnecessary if the mechanics had known their stuff.

NAME OF WORKER [Marnock?] R. Steward ADRESS Sumner, Nebr.

DATE Oct. 21, 1938 SUBJECT Early day living and Snake Story

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Rachel E. [?] Ridenour Sumner, Nebraska

We came to this country March 4, 1884 and have lived on the same place since. Our first house was made by digging out a place in a bank for the north and west walls and the

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south and east walls were made of sod /# and the roof of ash poles covered with sod. In the spring of the year when the snow was melting or during the heavy rains, the water would seep through the sod on the table and beds and we had pans setting all around the house to catch the muddy water.

I remember one summer after noon my sister and her baby about 2 years old came to our house and we gave the baby a bowl of bread and milk and set him on the ground in the shade of the house to eat while we were busy canning corn and pretty soon we heard the baby just cackel. Pretty soon we heard him laught again and again so we went out to /# see what the trouble was and there and behold a big rattle snake was eating bread and milk out of the bowl and the baby would hit it on the head with the spoon and the snake would jerk its head back and that was what was tickling the baby. We were frightened out of our wits and was afraid to call the baby for fear the snake would bite him and we didn't know what to do. The baby was seting close to the corner of the house with his back toward that corner so I run around the house and and while the snake had its head in the bowl I grabbed the baby and got him in the house and then we killed the snake and the baby just cried and cried to go back out there and play with the snake.